



Childhood Connections

August 2, 2022

Back to School!



August means back to school time for many parents and caregivers. It's a time for reflection, celebration, and ... school shopping! I've spent many hours with my sons tracking down washable markers and big pink erasers! But getting ready for school isn't just about backpacks and school supplies, it's about meeting developmental milestones, social skills, and approaches to learning like curiosity and imagination. Getting ready for school doesn't happen overnight, it occurs throughout a child's first five years.

Make plans with your child to attend a back-to-school fair, open house, meet-and-greet with your teacher, or volunteer in the classroom. Having a strong home-to-school partnership is essential for children to be supported. This partnership can have a big impact in a child's education. When parents and caregivers are engaged in a child's education early and often, they are more likely to be engaged throughout the school years.

Sincerely,
Pam Thomas
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Childhood

NEW! Early Childhood State Advisory Council (ECSAC) Meeting

The next meeting of the newly formed ECSAC will be on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. Read more about the council meeting and how guests can listen live on the [ECSAC webpage](#).

UPDATED! Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Resources and Training Modules

The OOC has posted a variety of updated resources and trainings, including a webinar series on making ECO determinations, for providers and families of students who qualify for ECSE services.



Preschool Start-Up Grants

A Preschool Start-up Grant Administrative Memo was recently disseminated to all local education agencies to announce a new funding opportunity for preschool programs. The application closes on September 30, 2022.

An updated Missouri Outcomes Summary Sheet (MOSS) and instructions on how to complete the MOSS have also been posted. These materials are available for professional development opportunities and can be accessed on the [Early Childhood Special Education webpage](#) under ECO.

NEW! Health and Safety Institute (HSI) Certification Cards

Attention child care providers! HSI certification cards are now accepted as verification of CPR and First Aid training. As you may know, the American Safety and Health Institute (ASHI) and EMS Safety merged with MEDIC first aid to become HSI in 2022. Due to this change, the ASHI and EMS Safety certification is only good through December 2024. After that, their certification is void.

NEW! Foundations for School Success Grant

The annual application for Foundations for School Success grant, formerly known as the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Block Grant, is now open for public schools to apply. Funds are available for programs who meet the needs of working parents through extended hours, five days a week, and open year round. Learn more about the grant requirements in the [Foundations for School Success Program Guidelines](#). Applications close on September 30, 2022. Contact the OOC Preschool team at preschool@dese.mo.gov for more information.

NEW! Annual First Steps Report is Available

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) recently completed its annual review of Missouri's performance under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which are the regulations that govern the First Steps Early Intervention Program. [Additional information on these results](#) is available for review by stakeholders of the First Steps program.

Enrollment and Resources Fair in Saint Louis

United 4 Children, St. Louis Public Schools, and Gateway Early Childhood Alliance are joining together for their inaugural Enrollment & Resources

Parent Education Allocation for 2022-23

A [Missouri Parents as Teachers Parent Education Administrative Memo](#) was recently disseminated to all school district administrators to provide information related to allocations for fiscal year 2023. The program is also in the process of [revising rules for the program](#) which includes a public comment period that opened on August 1.

NEW! Statewide Afterschool Job Posting Webpage

Want to make a difference in the lives of school-age children? Check out [job postings](#) from afterschool and summer enrichment programs in Missouri. This resource is from the Missouri After School Network. Consider posting your job openings here!

NEW! STEM Innovation Videos

The STEM Innovation for Inclusion in Early Education (STEMIE) team has created a series of [1-2 min. videos](#) showing how STEM can be integrated into children's daily routines and activities.

National Maternal Mental Health Hotline

Pregnancy and a new baby can bring a range of emotions. Many

Fair on August 13th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Vashon High School, located at 3035 Cass Avenue, St. Louis, MO. The Resource Fair will support enrolling students in school and in child care. This event also offers families a variety of actives, including hearing and vision screenings, shoe giveaways, face painting, and more!

Make plans to attend if you are a child care provider interested in enrolling children or recruiting staff, a community partner who wants to inform families about their services, or a vendor who wants to promote their product with families. [Register today](#) to attend the St. Louis Enrollment & Resource Fair.

REMINDER! Child Care Subsidy Payments Authorization Update

Missouri child care subsidy payments based on authorization rather than attendance will end on August 31, 2022. Subsidy payments after this date will be made based on attendance. Please make plans accordingly.

Child care providers must continue to enter any absences in the time and attendance system for any day children are not in attendance to help with accountability and monitoring of attendance records during this time.

If you need assistance or a refresher on how to use your tablet to record attendance, you can contact KinderSystems at 833-866-1709 (option #9) or email supportMO@kindersystems.com.

UPDATE! Early Childhood Professional Development Registry

A new early childhood professional development registry (PDR) for providers is scheduled to be in place by spring of 2023. The goal is to combine separate systems into one that allows for the automation of attendance and credit assignment when completing a training. This system will make internal communications earlier between trainers and participants, as well as hosting online, on-demand trainings. The PDR will replace the Missouri Workshop Calendar and OPEN Initiative's Toolbox. More details are available in this [summary document](#) and [timeline](#).

women feel overwhelmed, sad, anxious, or exhausted at different times during their pregnancy or after having a baby. The National Maternal Mental Health Hotline can help.

Call or text 1-833-9-HELP4MOMS (1-833-943-5746). TTY users can use a preferred relay service or dial 711 and then 1-833-943-5746.

Child Care Health Consultation (CCHC) Program

The Child Care Health Consultation (CCHC) Program is a collaborative program between the OOC and Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) throughout Missouri. The program provides funding for public health professionals to enhance health and safety practices in child care and early care and education settings.

Currently, 95 counties are eligible to receive CCHC program services from an LPHA. If you are interested in learning more about CCHC Program services available in your area, please visit the [CCHC Program webpage](#), contact your local public health department, or reach out to CCHCProgram@dese.mo.gov.

REMINDER! Professional Learning Communities Available for Home Visitors

NEW! Monitoring and Developmental Screening Videos



Do you know the difference between monitoring and developmental screening? What about your role as a professional in helping families understand the difference?

Check out these new videos about monitoring and developmental screenings for [families](#) and [professionals](#) that continue to help promote the importance of school readiness. When we all work together children are safe, healthy, and successful learners!

Home visitors can access the [Missouri Parent Education Program Support webpage](#) for Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) designed to strengthen home visiting programs across the state. By participating in these PLC's, home visitors have the opportunity to learn, network, and grow professionally. We welcome all individuals from the home visiting sector to consider these offerings as a way to support positive outcomes for Missouri families.

Save the Date!

DESE hosts an annual [Conference on the Young Years \(CYY\)](#) that provides professional development opportunities to all professionals who serve children birth to third grade. We are pleased to announce the 50th Annual CYY will be held March 9-11, 2023 at the Tan-Tar-A Conference Center in Osage Beach, Missouri.

Changes to Licensing Capacity for Licensed Family Child Care Homes

On July 1, 2022, Governor Parson signed Senate Bill 683 into law. This bill immediately changes the child care licensing capacity for family child care homes. This bill sets the following requirements:

- Licensed family child care home providers are now allowed to care for an extra two (2) children who are five (5) years of age or older and are related to the provider, under court appointed guardianship, or legal custody of the provider.
 - These extra school age children will not count in the licensed capacity.

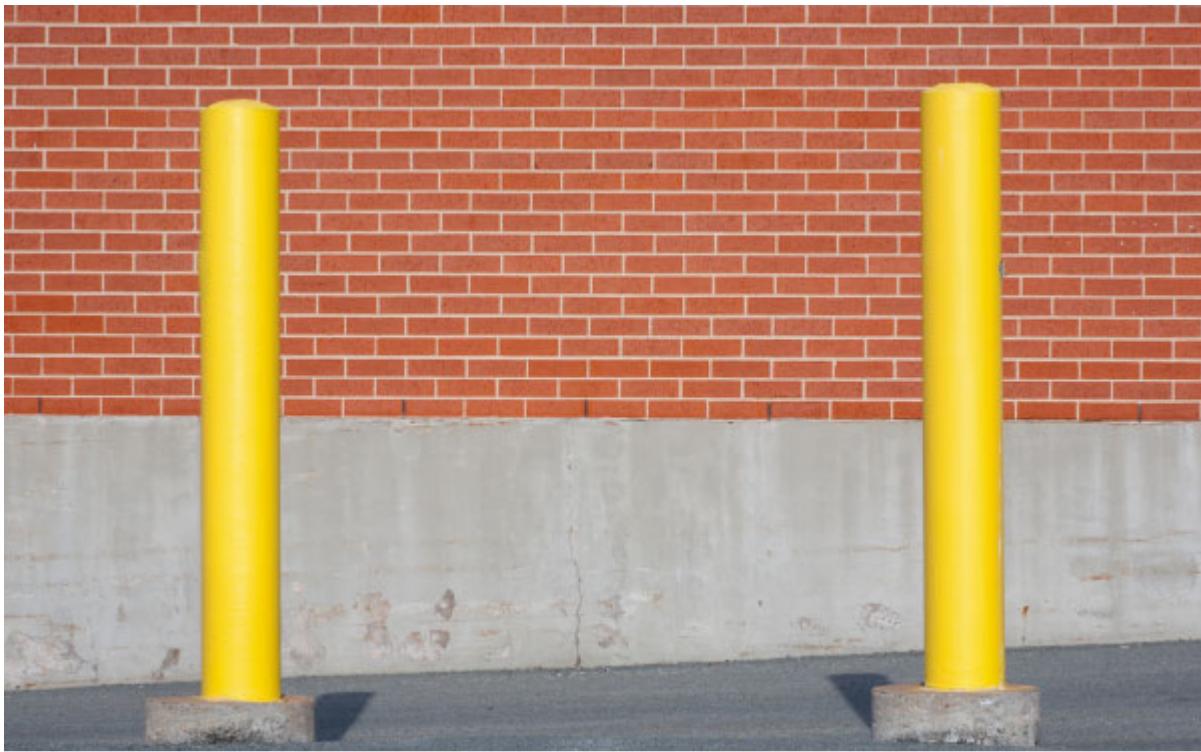
- You must follow all other licensing rules for family child care homes for these children.
- “Related” includes any of the following relationships by marriage, blood, or adoption between the provider and the child(ren) in care: parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, brother, sister, stepparent, stepbrother, stepsister, uncle, aunt, niece, or nephew.
- If there is more than one provider on the license, the related children of only one provider can be excluded from counting in the licensed capacity.
- If you care for extra children as allowed by this change in the law, you must disclose this in writing to the parents/guardians of all children in care. Parents/guardians must sign this notice to verify they have received the notice about additional children.
- Be sure to keep signed notices on file at your facility.

The changes outlined above take effect immediately. The OOC is proposing rule amendments to reflect the change in law. Due to the change in law, the current rule (5 CSR 25-400.105(2)(C)) that allows a licensed family child care home provider to care for an unlimited number of children five (5) years of age and older who live in the provider’s home to not count in the licensed capacity is now replaced by this new change.

Please contact your local Compliance Inspector if you have questions about these changes.

REMINDER! Ensure the Perimeter of Your Child Care Space is Free of Hazards

Regulated providers (License and License-Exempt) - Did you know that your facility needs to be safe and suitable for child care? This includes the perimeter of your child care facility which may require extra outdoor safety measures, such as car stops or bollards. Examples of car stops and bollards:



- For Family Child Care Homes
 - See licensing rule 5 CSR 25-400.085 (1) (A)
- For Group Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers
 - See licensing rule 5 CSR 25-500.082 (1) (A)
- For License-Exempt Child Care Facilities
 - See licensing rule 5 CSR 25-300.090 (1)

These rules are general and broad and do not identify car stops or bollards specifically. However, there is a concern for children's safety when there is no barrier between a parking lot or street and the building/playground. Facilities with parking lots, roads, or alleyways that line up to or are parallel to the

building or outdoor play space, require a car stop to help prevent tragedy in the event of an accident.

This safety measure may also help your business to prevent damage in the event a car loses control. Please be prepared and do your own assessment of your property. Compliance Inspectors are regularly checking for this safety precaution during routine inspections.

Spotlight on Success

Spotlight on Success aims to share stories from local programs that are building community partnerships in order to strengthen and coordinate childhood programs.



Photo courtesy of Belton School District.

This month's spotlight is on Belton School District's Grace Early Childhood Care and Education Center. The Grace Site Team, made up of representatives throughout the building, meet monthly to discuss building needs/hurdles, highlights, innovative ideas, and building visions. This team works together to develop these cohesive plans and building-wide changes. Grace Special Education Department and Care staff work to provide seamless transitions between programming, making sure to share ideas and strategies with each other in order to fully support the child.

Parent educators work together with other professionals to support teen parents in completing graduation, as well as programming needs and future building plans. All programs come together to host family events, making sure to create an event that meets the needs of all students and age groups, including: high school counselors, teachers, students, and teen parents work with the Center through the Nursery classes and internships; and the Center works with Young Lives, Head Start, Cass County Dental Health, First Steps, and other early childhood and care centers in the area.

Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) Update



The Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) provides funding over three years to coordinate a more effective, high-quality early childhood system that better prepares Missouri children for success.

Each month the Office of Childhood hosts a live webinar to provide updates and information about the PDG B-5 to stakeholders. A [recording](#) and the [PowerPoint slides](#) from the most recent webinar are available in case you are unable to attend and wish to hear the information.

A [PDG B-5 dashboard](#) is also updated monthly. This dashboard provides an at-a-glance look at priority areas, budget status, and key accomplishments.

PDG B-5 Monthly Webinar

Join us for the next PDG B-5 Stakeholder webinar on August 30, 2022, from noon to 12:45 p.m. to learn more and ask questions. You can [access the webinar](#) in a Google Chrome or Safari web browser do not view in Internet Explorer. We hope you can participate!

Archived Editions of Childhood Connections

Visit the Office of Childhood website to find [previous editions](#) of the Childhood Connections.

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